

MSHA Truck Safety Alert



Recent trucking accidents illustrate the need for heightened diligence in coal truck haulage safety. On June 25, 2005, a haulage truck collided with another haulage truck after losing control while descending a grade. Upon impact, the truck traveling down the grade, left the roadway and came to rest in an adjacent pond. Another miner held the truck operator's head above water while he was cut loose from the damaged truck. Two days later, another truck traveled out of control, down grade, for 900 feet before leaving the road into a sump impoundment.



Preventive Practices:

- ✓ Never operate a truck or moving machine without using a seat belt.
- ✓ Never attempt to jump from a moving truck or machine.
- ✓ Ensure that seat belts are in good condition and operating properly.
- ✓ Conduct pre-operational checks to identify any defects that may affect the safe operation of equipment before it is placed into service. Pay special attention to ensuring the brakes are properly adjusted and there are no significant air leaks.
- ✓ Operate loaded trucks in an appropriate gear for the grade, load, and speed.
- ✓ Never operate a truck where the brakes will not stop it.
- ✓ Never rely on engine brakes and transmission retarders as substitutes for keeping brakes properly maintained.